

*2005 Year in Review*

Inter-American Foundation



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*Cover: Weaving by Asociación de Artesanos Andinos of Bolivia. For more on the organization and additional photos of it's work, see pages 7, 16 and 17. (Photo: Rebecca White)*

2005 in Review

# *Inter American Foundation*

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# *Inter-American Foundation*

## *2005 in Review*

**T**he Inter-American Foundation (IAF), an independent foreign assistance agency of the United States government, provides grants for grassroots development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Created by Congress in 1969, the IAF responds to self-help development projects proposed by grassroots groups and the organizations that support them. It also encourages partnerships among community organizations, businesses and local government directed at improving the quality of life for poor people and strengthening democratic practices. To contribute to a better understanding of the development process, the IAF shares its experiences and the lessons it has learned.

The Inter-American Foundation is governed by a nine-person board of directors appointed by the president of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Six members are drawn from the private sector and three from the federal government. A president, appointed by the board, serves as the Inter-American Foundation's chief executive officer, managing a staff of 47 employees based in Arlington, Virginia.

Congress appropriates funds annually for the Inter-American Foundation. The IAF also has access to the Social Progress Trust Fund administered by the Inter-American Development Bank and consisting of payments on U.S. government loans extended under the Alliance for Progress to various Latin American and Caribbean governments. Since 1972, the IAF has awarded 4,578 grants valued at more than \$586 million. Together, the IAF and its grantees have improved the conditions of hundreds of thousands of poor families in communities throughout the hemisphere.

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REBECCA JAMES



COURTESY AAA



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

When our new board first met last fall, we all realized that the most important decision we would probably make during our tenures would be the selection of a new president of the Foundation.

Over the next six months our search committee interviewed a significant number of highly qualified candidates. The keen interest in this position was a testament to the reputation of the Inter-American Foundation.

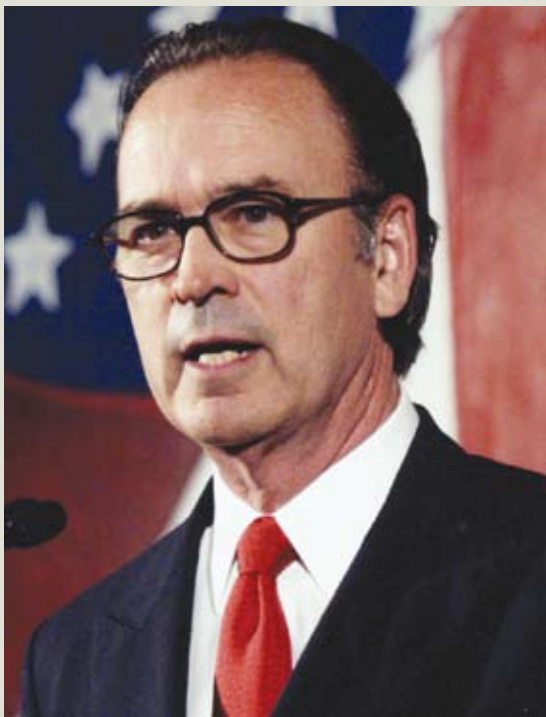
In selecting Ambassador Larry Palmer, we feel we have fulfilled our mission. A distinguished career diplomat, Ambassador Palmer brings both a great breadth of understanding and a great depth of commitment to the hemisphere. His intelligence, his energy and his leadership skills will, we feel confident, serve to fulfill the goals and aspirations of the Foundation as we move forward.

Over the past year, I've explored development issues with IAF staff and visited IAF's partners and projects in Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador and Guatemala. Again and again, I've come away with the same two thoughts: First, the grassroots approach really works, because it responds to people's ideas and respects their desire to be in charge. Second, precious little grassroots development is going on, despite its obvious effectiveness.

When IAF was created, 36 years ago, skeptics doubted it could find enough worthy organizations to fund. Since then, the IAF has supported more than 4,500 development initiatives originating in rural and urban communities of Latin America and the Caribbean. And those organizations that sought our funding didn't come to us empty-handed. Along with their ideas, they brought cash and in-kind resources worth more than \$800 million to invest in their projects. To me, that commitment is evidence that grassroots development is the way to go.

So why aren't we doing more of it? At current budget levels, IAF is funding slightly more than 3 percent of the proposals it receives. We are working with the Administration, with Congress and with other development agencies to give grassroots development a more significant role in U.S. foreign assistance. We are also drawing upon more than a decade of Inter-American Foundation experience co-funding projects with partners in the private sector. We looked for ways to increase private sector involvement in these projects and the result was RedEAmérica, a network of corporate foundations and corporations dedicated to grassroots development as a means to reduce poverty.

RedEAmérica was created in Miami in September 2002 at an IAF-convened meeting attended by representatives of the 25 businesses and corporate foundations that became charter members of the network. Since then, the roster has grown to 55 members committed to two premises: that the best



ideas for improving conditions in a given community come from the residents, and that businesses have an interest in supporting these ideas.

Each member of RedEAmérica has its own financial resources and operates its own program. As members, they agree to focus funding on grassroots

development and to measure the results of their investment with a uniform set of indicators. They receive orientation, training and an off-the-shelf guide that helps them adapt IAF's approach to their work. Currently, RedEAmérica plans for continuous expansion and improvement of the effectiveness of its members' grant making. To maximize their impact, the network's members envisioned a Global Fund for Grassroots Development designed to link RedEAmérica members to financial contributors from around the world. They spent much of 2005 working through the details and the fund should become operative shortly.

From my perspective, RedEAmérica offers a promising answer to the "scalability problem": Grassroots development works, how do we do it on a larger scale? By combining IAF's "know-how", and RedEAmérica's ability to enlist increasingly greater private sector participation in its efforts at the grassroots, this network has the potential to reach thousands of community organizations around the hemisphere. IAF's core mission over the past 35 years has been to fund self-help and we have learned from our experience. Through trial and error, followed by rigorous monitoring and analysis, we are constantly improving our understanding of what works and what doesn't at the most basic level. The enormous impact of transmitting the IAF's proven approach through a vehicle such as RedEAmérica could prove to be our organization's most valuable contribution to development.

Roger W. Wallace  
Chair, Board of Directors





## P R E S I D E N T ' S   R E P O R T

**B**ecause only a few short months have passed since I became the Inter-American Foundation's seventh president, this, my first report, should perhaps be called my "first impressions." Certainly one of my strongest impressions is of a dynamic agency, with a highly qualified and dedicated staff, successfully pursuing a remarkable variety of development initiatives. A second is that despite the variety, there is a coherence to these initiatives born of the IAF's unwavering focus on responsive funding.

Responsive funding, I am learning, is why IAF is engaged in so many imaginative projects. Whether our Foundation representatives are in urban slums, corporate boardrooms, isolated villages, or meeting with hometown associations of migrants in this country, they send a consistent message: the best way to fight poverty is to support the self-help ideas created or adopted by the poor themselves. Our representatives not only ask grassroots and nongovernmental organizations all over Latin America and the Caribbean for their ideas; they listen to them. That means each year the IAF is tapping into the most creative proposals emerging from the region's grassroots and following our grantees as they work toward their goals.

I am impressed too with IAF's ability to move quickly and proactively when the situation requires. IAF immediately addressed the devastation of Hurricane Stan in Central America by authorizing all affected grantees to reprogram project funds to deal with the emergency. I was able put executive staff on the ground in Guatemala and El Salvador to assess the destruction and to invite grantee staff to tell us how we could help them put their projects back in operation. Beyond the urgency of that disaster, I have been impressed with how this organization's flexibility encourages efforts to proactively explore new sources of ideas and resources. So far, I have observed three glowing examples:

- Hometown associations of migrants living and working in the U.S. offer support for development projects in the communities where their members have close personal ties. Many migrants, we've found, are interested in helping create economic possibilities back home so the next generation has alternatives to migration.
- RedEAmérica, described by IAF board chair Roger Wallace in this report, promises to harness corporate social responsibility for broader development at the grassroots. IAF's approach can change communities. Applied by RedEAmérica, it has the potential to change countries, regions and the hemisphere.
- For three decades, the IAF has supported the self-help solutions of Latin Americans of African descent, including Juan Garcia who directed an IAF-funded project in Esmeraldas, Ecuador. I was honored to be present when Juan gave Lonnie Bunch III, director of the future African-American Museum in Washington, his institution's first acquisition, a beautifully carved and polished wooden bench on which Juan's grandmother had sat to paddle her canoe and to pass on her people's oral tradition. Assembling this heritage became Juan's life-long work.

As a Peace Corps Volunteer in Africa, and through a Foreign Service career that led to my most recent posting as United States ambassador to Honduras, I have seen the debilitating effects of widespread poverty and the difficulty of struggle to overcome poverty. I also know the difference that a little help can make, not in the form of charity, but in the form of an empowering and enabling push. Our IAF programs change lives a few communities at a time. Our goal is to be an effective force in the transformation of the region over time, and, judging from the results documented in our published report, we have been successful.

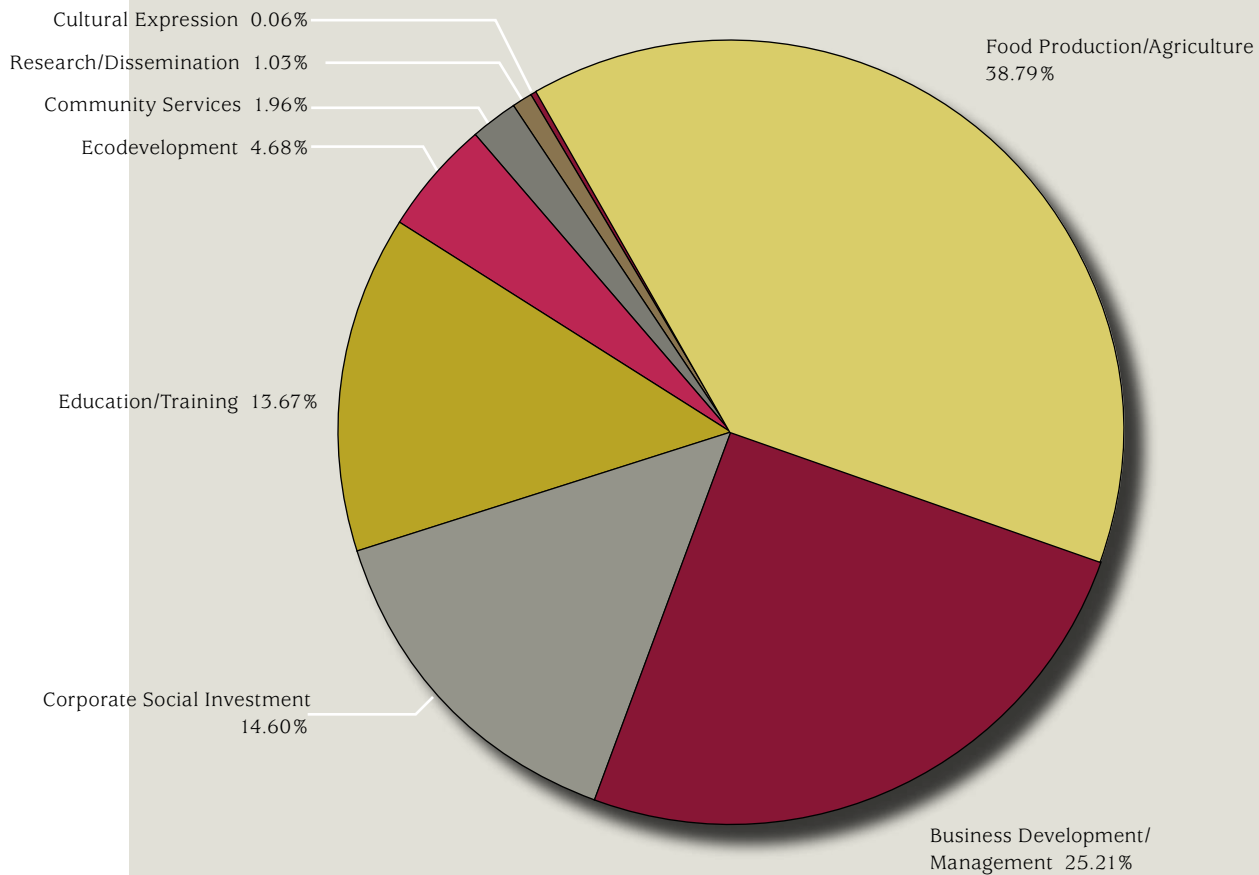
My first impressions tell me that the IAF approach taps into the vast resource of energy that mobilizes poor people who glimpse the possibility of a better life for themselves and their children. I think that the time is right to expand IAF's efforts. My priority as IAF's president is to reach more people through a greater investment in communities, improved health and education programs, and more focus on income generation and economic development. I'm excited at the opportunity to lend my granito de arena, my grain of sand, to IAF's work.

  
Larry L. Palmer

# Grant Program Profile

FISCAL 2005

Primary Program Area	Percentage
Food Production/Agriculture	38.79
Business Development/Management	25.21
Corporate Social Investment	14.60
Education/Training	13.67
Ecodevelopment	4.68
Community Services	1.96
Research/Dissemination	1.03
Cultural Expression	0.06
<b>Fiscal 2005 Total</b>	<b>100</b>





# Financial and Statistical Report

## Investment by Country

Country	Fiscal 2005			Totals for 1972 – 2005	
	Grants	Supplements	Funds*	Grants	Funds
Anguilla				1	3
Antigua and Barbuda				8	507
Argentina	2	2†	612	220	28,356
Bahamas				7	144
Barbados				11	925
Belize				78	3,959
Bolivia	7	3	1,524	258	34,099
Brazil	8†	2†	1,959	366	45,356
Chile	3	1	786	261	43,133
Caribbean Region				62	7,308
Colombia	1	1†	552	301	40,056
Costa Rica				217	15,148
Dominica				75	2,282
Dominican Republic	2	1	366	224	22,591
Ecuador	3	3†	1,150	177	27,257
El Salvador	4	3	1,552	189	30,509
Grenada				17	540
Guatemala				178	26,781
Guyana				7	294
Haiti		1	22	129	13,867
Honduras	1	1	274	152	23,467
Jamaica				67	4,080
Latin America Region	2	1	400	133	12,106
Mexico	4	3	1,482	341	51,958
Montserrat				1	3
Netherlands Antilles				2	126
Nicaragua	3	3	861	167	29,141
Panama	1	5	362	196	23,912
Paraguay				141	17,553
Peru	7	3	1,621	259	44,302
St. Kitts and Nevis				6	541
St. Lucia				12	696
St. Vincent				12	746
Suriname				3	347
Trinidad and Tobago				14	949
Turks and Caicos				2	12
Uruguay	2		398	132	17,533
Venezuela	4		697	152	15,599
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>14,618</b>	<b>4,578</b>	<b>586,235</b>

\*Investment is indicated in thousands of dollars.

† Includes RedEAmérica program.

## ARGENTINA

### New Grants

***El Ceibal Asociación Civil*** (El Ceibal), \$109,000 over three years

El Ceibal will strengthen five clusters of rural artisans in the provinces of Santiago del Estero and Tucumán and consolidate them into an association of weavers. The artisans, mostly indigenous women, will increase household income as a result and recover ancestral techniques and designs, along with a sense of cultural identity. (AR-339)

***Fundación Defensores del Chaco*** (DCH), \$228,300 over three years

DCH will strengthen grassroots organizations and promote civic participation, tolerance and conflict resolution among children and young adults through sports events, cultural activities and education on legal rights. Some 3,000 residents of the municipality of Moreno and neighboring communities will directly benefit. (AR-340)

PATRICK BRESLIN



### Supplemental Grants\*

***Fundación Leer*** (Leer), \$85,035

Fundación Leer will continue to offer its life skills program in 130 schools, reaching approximately 13,700 students. Leer will train school principals and teachers through workshops it coordinates with public education authorities in the province of Chubut. (AR-330-A3)

\* This review includes only those supplemental grants exceeding \$10,000. Unless otherwise indicated, supplemental grants are awarded over the period of one year.



## Scoring a Goal for the Community

In *Getting Ahead Collectively: Grassroots Experiences in Latin America* (Pergamon Press, 1984), analyzing IAF's self-help approach to development, economist Albert Hirschman mentions the importance of athletics. According to Hirschman, a group's decision to build a soccer field, and the successful completion of the project, can foster a sense of community and lead to bigger undertakings.

That has been the experience of **Fundación Defensores del Chaco** (DCH), which, since 1994, has emphasized soccer as an instrument for social change, a concept that originated with Street Football International, a project of the German-based Youth Football International. DCH got started in Moreno, a low-income municipality of Greater Buenos Aires, when a group of soccer players decided to organize the community and build a sports club. Since its chartering as an NGO in 1997, DCH has also used the arts and education to strengthen neighborhood organizations. DCH joined Fundación Octubre and the Moreno Hospital staff in training residents as health educators who encourage regular examinations as a preventive measure. Working through Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia (ACIJ), an NGO focused on consumer protection and other

legal rights, DCH offers free legal advice on access to basic services such as transportation, education, health, electricity and water. Word has spread about DCH's effectiveness, and DCH has expanded its program into five nearby communities.

DCH recently introduced co-ed soccer leagues as a means of motivating young people, including disadvantaged adolescents, to participate in designing proposals addressing community concerns. The solidarity leagues, as neighborhood residents call them, emphasize tolerance, unity, respect and participation. Instead of the traditional referee, participating leagues elect a mediator to settle disputes. With its IAF grant, DCH will further promote civic engagement by strengthening soccer leagues in two neighborhoods, Paso del Rey and Cuartel V, and by forming three additional leagues

in two others, Las Tunas and Los Polvorines. Through soccer, culture and rights campaigns, DCH will help build and consolidate a network of 50 grassroots organizations from which its teams draw their 1,400 players. Its strategy includes partnerships. Culebrón Timbal, a cultural promotion group, will hold outdoor meetings and events and offer a performance space for neighborhood musicians, dancers and actors. ACIJ and DCH will work together at recruiting community leaders from soccer leagues and cultural events and training them to further counsel residents with limited access to the justice system.

— Gabriela Boyer, Foundation representative





## New Grants

**Tukuypaj**, \$159,202 over four years

Tukuypaj will expand its experimental program of community-managed trout breeding and farming using lagoons in 41 Andean communities in 10 municipalities of Sacaba and Colomi in Cochabamba department. The grantee will diversify food production, develop the communities' management skills, improve family income and increase trout consumption, resulting in nutritional benefits, especially for children. (BO-494)

**El Instituto Para el Hombre, Agricultura y Ecología** (IPHAE), \$393,315 over three years

IPHAE will expand and consolidate diversified agro-forestry production, including of Amazonian fruits, such as *cupuazu*, for processing into a variety of products to be sold throughout Bolivia. The project will improve food security, rural income, the sustainability of farming systems, and the negotiating and marketing ability of approximately 600 families from 40 communities in five municipalities near the city of Riberalta in the Norte Amazónica region. (BO-495)

**Centro de Investigación, Diseño Artesanal y Comercialización Comunitaria** (CIDAC), \$183,960 over three years

CIDAC will improve the workmanship and income of 200 Guaraní, Weehhawek, Ayoreo, and other indigenous and mestizo artisans in eastern Bolivia through training and technical assistance. The grantees will refine their skills in pottery-making, woodcarving, weaving and other handicrafts, enhancing both the quantity and the quality of their products. CIDAC will also construct an indigenous arts museum and provide a report on the region's artisan sector. (BO-496)

**Asociación de Artesanos Andinos** (AAA), \$186,325 over three years

AAA will revive and further develop weaving techniques and designs to increase the skills, income and cultural pride of 500 male and female indigenous weavers in the Arque and Tapacari provinces of Cochabamba department. The project focuses on strengthening the organization of artisans in 34 communities; improving, diversifying and expanding production; and formulating an effective local marketing strategy. (BO-497)

**Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo** (CIDESI), \$166,000 over four years

CIDESI will expand the cultivation of pigeon peas, a new crop in Bolivia, as a source of chicken feed. Production and marketing of chickens and eggs will lead to better income, nutrition, food security and natural resource conservation and to the empowerment of women from 300 indigenous Tsimane families residing in 18 communities in the San Borja province of the Beni department. The project team will provide supervision and furnish seeds, baby chicks and construction materials. A market study, workshops, technical assistance, periodic evaluations and radio programs will support the activities. (BO-498)

**El Instituto de Lengua y Cultura Aymara** (ILCA), \$34,974 over six months

ILCA will conduct planning and consultation exercises with Aymara communities on a proposal for bolstering income through crafts, farming, herding and tourism. The exercise will build partnerships for a larger project with the indigenous municipal districts of Challapata, Qaqachaka, K'ulta and Norte Condo in Oruro department. (BO-499)

**Fundación UÑATATAWI** (FUNDAMI), \$195,272 over three years

FUNDAMI will introduce the production and marketing of medicinal and aromatic plants to protect the tropical forest ecology and increase the incomes of 258 families from eight communities in the Caranavi province of La Paz. The grantee will develop a farmer-owned and-managed enterprise involving a seedling nursery; infrastructure for processing and storing dried leaves, teas and essential oils; and training in organic production technologies and marketing. (BO-500)



COURTESY AAA

## Supplemental Grants

### ***Centro de Acción Social para el Desarrollo Comunitario*** (CASDEC), \$85,970

CASDEC will conduct training in agriculture and sustainable forestry, organize a center for the production and distribution of organic fertilizers, construct irrigation channels and 30 water tanks, further develop its reforestation activities and, through its communal sawmill, increase income from timber. (BO-469-A7)

### ***Centro de Investigaciones y Servicio Popular*** (CISEP), \$34,800

CISEP will conduct training in municipal development and support technical oversight of municipal programs, help improve community-based planning processes, and work with neighborhood councils to develop proposals directed at better health and education services in District Four of the city of Oruro. (BO-472-A6)

### ***Protección del Medio Ambiente de Tarija*** (PROMETA), \$84,482

PROMETA will benefit 10 farmer communities in the protected area of Sajama in the altiplano region of Tarija through training in the use and promotion of traditional Andean food products, in the preparation and use of creams, inks and other products from medicinal plants, and in camelid livestock management. The grantee will also construct and equip a laboratory and, with the input from the municipal government and community organizations, a slaughterhouse and meat-processing facilities. (BO-475-A7)

## *A Design for the Future from an Ancient Art*

The pre-Colombian weavings of the Andes represent some of the finest textiles in the world. The superior weaving tradition survived through the colonial period well into the 20th century. But the quality abruptly declined in Andean Bolivia in the 1950s as a result of policies promoting cultural assimilation. In recent years, visionary social entrepreneurs, recognizing the economic potential of a grossly undervalued resource in Bolivia's growing tourism industry, have managed to reverse this trend to the special benefit of poor indigenous women.

***Asociación de Artesanos Andinos*** (AAA), whose revitalization program has been underway since 2001, operates through centers in 34 indigenous *ayllus*, or communities, dispersed throughout Potosi and Cochabamba. Each center elects a board of directors to manage funds and oversee production; one member is selected to serve as its AAA representative. The finished goods are offered for sale in a renovated cultural center in the village of Japo, on the Pan American Highway, and the city of Cochabamba.

AAA's ultimate economic goal is to raise family income from weaving. Its IAF funding will be invested in diversifying the product line, improving quality and strengthening the management skills of participating weavers. Five production promoters will provide the weavers extensive technical assistance, feedback on their work, and recommendations on recovering traditional designs and developing new products. AAA is also working to counteract the effects of a history of alienation and discrimination. IAF's support will enable AAA to offer the weavers workshops aimed at cultivating a sense of cultural pride and self-worth. Additional activities will promote the artistic value of Andean textiles and disseminate information on their revival in Bolivia and abroad. Finally, AAA will support an anthropological study on the impact of revitalizing this ancient tradition. — Courtney Brown, program staff assistant, and Kevin Healy, Foundation representative



SEAN SPRAGUE

## B R A Z I L

### New Grants

***100 Dimensão–Cooperativa de Coleta Seletiva e Reciclagem de Resíduos Sólidos com Formação e Educação Ambiental*** (100 Dimensão), \$321,625 over two years

100 Dimensão, a recyclers' cooperative in the Federal District of Brasília, will strengthen its administrative and productive capacity, increase its members' income, develop activities to involve and benefit other community residents, and provide assistance to other organizations of recyclers. (BR-823)

***Associação de Moradores do Conjunto Palmeira*** (ASMOCONP), \$225,000 over two years

ASMOCONP will provide vocational education and on-the-job training to 1,000 youths in Fortaleza. Students will intern with almost 100 accredited local establishments and will receive technical support and loans toward opening their own businesses. Participating establishments will also have access to credit to invest in their economic activities. (BR-824)

***Associação de Deficientes Físicos de Betim*** (ADEFIB), \$249,350 over two years

ADEFIB's project focuses on protection of watersheds and the preservation of surface and ground water sources in the municipality of Betim; on the social and professional inclusion of its members, who are individuals with disabilities; and on job training and placement for people with physical disabilities. The project will directly benefit 220 members of the association, their families and more than 800 community participants in events related to water conservation and to the inclusion of people with disabilities. (BR-826)

***Associação dos Artesãos de Imperatriz*** (ASSARI), \$314,000 over three years

ASSARI will improve the income of approximately 400 families involved in handicraft production in Imperatriz, Maranhão, through applying new technologies to their work, developing their management skills and opening market opportunities. The project will further develop the association as a promoter of handicrafts. (BR-827)



## *A Better Living from Handicrafts*

A study conducted by Brazil's Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Commerce values the output of Brazilian artisans at \$12 billion annually, representing about 2.8 percent of GNP, almost equivalent to the automobile industry's share. The study also indicates that Brazilians subsisting from handicraft production, approximately 8.5 million artisans, 87 percent of them women, earn an average monthly income of \$200 to \$300.

In the northeastern state of Maranhão, an estimated 50,000 people rely exclusively on the sale of handicrafts for their livelihood. Their diverse array of products includes decorative and functional ceramics, woodcarvings and leather goods. Some artisans sew while others crochet, knit, embroider, do lacework or make jewelry. Specialized cooks turn out regional dishes, including desserts made with local fruits. All of these craftspeople use raw materials available locally and draw upon their cultural identity and regional customs. Their products represent not only a spontaneous form of self-expression but also symbolize Maranhão.

With its IAF grant, ***Associação dos Artesãos de Imperatriz*** (ASSARI) intends to improve income from handicrafts and generate hundreds of new jobs in Imperatriz, Maranhão. ASSARI, founded and legally constituted in 1998, works with artisan groups to market their goods. It has contracts with companies prominent in Brazil's fashion and shoe industry and sells its members' goods through arts events in Brazil and abroad, including those ASSARI organizes. Its annual Imperatriz Arts Fair in July is on the city's cultural and tourist calendar.

By using its IAF funding to introduce new technologies and modernize and improve the handicraft production process, ASSARI expects to help its members lower their costs, increase the value of their goods and more than double their output. ASSARI will conduct market and technological studies, encourage the use of raw materials in a sustainable manner, provide intensive training, raise investment and start-up capital, help its members develop new brands and product lines linked to their regional comparative advantage, and open more marketing opportunities. ASSARI will also use IAF funds to consolidate its organizational structure, hire new staff and prepare its leaders for greater management responsibility. Approximately 400 artisans and their families (more than 1,600 people) will benefit from activities targeting current members of ASSARI and new artisan groups forming in 20 surrounding low-income communities.

— *Miriam E. Brandão, senior Foundation representative*



COURTESY ASSARI

### ***Fundo Rotativo da Ação da Cidadania***

(CRED CIDADANIA), \$315,000 over two years

CRED CIDADANIA will provide training to 400 low-income families in two rural communities in Pernambuco, as well as access to start-up and working capital through a loan fund that each community will establish and manage. CRED CIDADANIA will use a mobile office to respond to the credit needs of entrepreneurs in remote locations. (BR-828)

### ***Obras Sociais da Diocese de Imperatriz*** (OSDI), \$191,000 over three years

OSDI will support the institutional and educational strengthening of Casas Familiares Rurais (CFRs) in three municipalities of Maranhão. The CFRs are nonconventional educational centers that allow rural students to alternate residence between home and school. Direct project beneficiaries are 270 youths who will be trained as community development agents. The goal is to demonstrate the validity of the CFR model in improving the quality of life of rural families and obtain long-term official support for the CFRs. (BR-829)

# Chile

C H I L E

## Supplemental Grant

***Red Sinergi@Regional***, \$120,880

Red Sinergi will engage Chile's private and public sectors and international donors in a matching fund initiative providing economic assistance to local development trainees and supporting regional meetings, studies, publications and its Web site. (CH-512-A1)



# Colombia

## New Grant

**Empresa Cooperativa del Sur del Cauca**  
(COSURCA), \$291,699 for two years

COSURCA will provide technical and financial services to 1,530 coffee and fruit farmers to renovate their farms, promote organic growing methods, improve post-harvest coffee processing, increase the volume of organic coffee marketed through international Fair Trade channels, and improve fruit sales in regional Colombian markets. COSURCA will work through producers' associations from the southern provinces of the Cauca region. (C0-503)

## Better Income for Coffee Farmers

Coffee farmers in Andean Colombia have had to struggle daily to survive the depressed prices for their beans brought by economic globalization. The **Empresa Cooperativa del Sur del Cauca** (COSURCA) is working to shore up their income and also to protect the environment. A federation of hundreds of farmers mobilized through 11 organizations in Colombia's southern Cauca region, COSURCA is connecting the coffee farmers with better-paying Fair Trade and organic markets for their green coffee beans in the United States and Europe, including such socially responsible companies as Green Mountain in the U.S. Northeast. And it is helping them obtain value-added benefits from Colombian markets by roasting their beans before they sell them. It also assists five of its member organizations in diversifying their farmers' commercial production with papaya and *lulo*, an indigenous fruit, and improving their skills in marketing these crops.

With IAF's support, COSURCA will channel credit to farmers using five funds earmarked for specific development activities directed at a significant increase in the quality and quantity of their production. This credit will allow farmers to expand their application of sustainable technologies, renovate and maintain high-yield coffee bushes and invest in platforms for drying harvested beans, in pulp-removing equipment and in small water tanks. COSURCA will install laboratories for "cupping" tests and farmers will learn to distinguish by taste the various kinds of high quality coffee preferred by different groups of consumers.

Important to COSURCA's project are opportunities to share information: farmer-to-farmer technical exchanges, group work days, community assemblies and farming demonstrations by experienced participants directed at newer organic producers. A reason for COSURCA's success has been its application of "community-based" methodologies. This means that its "field promoters" and the members of its "technical committees" are local farmers with well developed organizational and technical skills and the motivation to serve the grassroots network of COSURCA member organizations. — Kevin Healy, Foundation representative



COURTESY COSURCA

## THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

### New Grants

***Cooperativa de la Federación de Productores, Campesinos y Microempresarios Azuanos Inc.***

(C-Feproca), \$142,151 over two years

C-Feproca will provide enterprise development training and microcredit to 26 rural women's associations, all members of C-Feproca's affiliate Federación de Productores, Campesinos y Microempresarios Azuanos in Azua de Compostela province. Of the 400 rural- and/or women-owned micro-enterprises C-Feproca will incubate through its credit fund, 200 will be identified through its training program and 200 will be awarded loans through an open application process. (DR-330)

***Coordinadoras de Mujeres de Cibao (CMC),***

\$221,390 over four years

Building on its successful training program, CMC will strengthen the capacity of its member women's associations to influence local government to support programs and initiatives that improve the standard of living of their families and communities in the Cibao region. (DR-331)



## *A New Era for the Butterflies*

**T**raditionally, the voices of Latin American women have not been considered by those who shape the policies that affect their lives. To address this, 11 Latin American countries enacted laws in the 1990's establishing minimum quotas to be filled by women candidates for national office. Among these countries is the Dominican Republic, where women have been underrepresented in the public arena.

Fortunately, Dominican women already have some strong role models of civic engagement. During the 1950s, Minerva, Patria, and Maria Teresa Mirabal, three sisters from the Cibao region in the northern Dominican province of Santiago, formed the Movement of the Fourteenth of June in opposition to the cruel dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo who ruled the country from 1930–1961. In 1960, they were brutally murdered for their activism. Admired during their lifetime, the Mirabal sisters, also known as “the Butterflies,” became revered in death as national heroines and particularly inspired organizations espousing women's causes. IAF's new grantee, the ***Coordinadora de Mujeres del Cibao*** (CMC), was one of these.

CMC was legally constituted in 1981 as a nongovernmental organization dedicated to improving the lives of women in Cibao. Toward this goal, it offers representatives of its member organizations the training and support needed to work for the inclusion of women in public policy and the creation of a more just and pluralistic society. To date, CMC has furthered the development of more than 35 associations in the Cibao region.

In 2001, CMC launched a three-year leadership program for its member associations offering training specifically emphasizing personal empowerment and conflict resolution. With IAF funds, the CMC will build on this program by taking it into a second phase during which 200 women from 17 member community associations will learn to draft initiatives for improving living conditions and to advocate for support from government and private institutions. By the end of its grant period, CMC expects the women whom it will train to actively further the development of their communities, something that would make the Butterflies very proud. — *Tina L. Balin-Brooks*, Foundation representative



COURTESY CMC



COURTESY DEDE MIRABAL

## New Grants

**Fundación Mujer y Familia Andina**  
(FUNDAMYF), \$230,000 over three years

FUNDAMYF will work in at least 15 neighborhoods in the northern coastal city of Esmeraldas providing women of African descent education and technical assistance in preventive health practices, civic rights and responsibilities, and the administration of a savings and loan fund to finance their micro-enterprises. (EC-390)

**Fundación para la Tecnología y el Desarrollo Latinoamericano Ecuatoriano** (FTDE), \$220,030 over two years

FTDE will provide training in alternative agricultural practices to 500 families of African descent living in 30 communities in Esmeraldas. Community residents will also participate in activities that improve their networking, organizing, social cohesion and collective problem-solving. (EC-391)

**Centro Waaponi** (Waaponi), \$270,060 over two years

WAAPONI will serve 400 adolescents and young adults with at least one parent who has migrated in search of work. Through exploring personal values, life challenges, communication styles, interpersonal skills, emotional intelligence, leadership qualities, civic responsibilities, decision-making and problem-solving, participants will learn to confront problems, manage conflict, set life goals and become active in their communities. (EC-392)

COURTESY FTDE





COURTESY WAAPONI

## *Guidance for Kids Left Behind*

**T**hroughout the world, the two-parent family has increasingly given way to households headed by single parents and childcare has been delegated to relatives or hired caregivers.

In Cuenca and its outlying areas, this redefinition of the traditional family is rooted in economic decline and the consequent outflow of adult residents in search of better prospects elsewhere. Scholars and social service professionals are just beginning to analyze the effects on children and adolescents, and they are troubling. Given the lack of connection to their absent parent(s), as well as feelings of isolation or abandonment after being “left behind,” many young people in Cuenca are considered vulnerable to serious mental health problems, including depression and the desire to commit suicide. While remittances from their parent(s) might resolve financial issues, they are no substitute for parental oversight. In fact, these monthly installments might aggravate some problems, such as easy access to drugs and alcohol.

**Centro Waaponi** (Waaponi) is a nongovernmental organization founded in Cuenca in 1999 to provide personal development services. It doesn’t purport to be a substitute for absent parents, but it can guide young people in making tough life decisions and train them to be better leaders. In the past, Waaponi has received support from the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the Universidad de Azuay, the municipality of Cuenca, the Programa de los Muchachos Trabajadores (Program for Young Workers), a local health center, and schools and businesses.

Waaponi will use its IAF grant to improve the well-being of children, adolescents and young adults through workshops that explore values, ambition, life challenges, communication styles, interpersonal skills, emotional intelligence, decision-making and problem-solving. Participants are challenged to incorporate what they learn as they discuss and debate leadership and civic responsibility. Waaponi’s staff has designed and will apply an empowerment method based on real-life situations, shared experiences and solutions arrived at collectively. The goal is for the kids to grow into more active and effective citizens who can take charge of their own lives and address issues affecting their community. — *Marnie Schilken, Foundation representative*



## New Grants

***Asociación Local para la Prevención de Desastres y el Desarrollo en el Bajo Lempa*** (Asociación Mangle), \$446,565 over four years

Asociación Mangle will assist members of 125 low-income families in the Bajo Lempa region of Usulután, many of them war veterans, some disabled. The grantee's program of community integration and development is based on diversified agriculture and aims to ensure year-round production through the introduction of irrigation systems, improving nutrition and raising income. A women's group will select and package the produce and process tomato sauce. (ES-214)

***Federación de Cooperativas de Medianos y Pequeños Productores Agropecuarios De El Salvador*** (FEDECOPPS), \$250,315 over two years

FEDECOPPS will strengthen organic agricultural production and create five small businesses to process and market fruits and vegetables. The pilot project will improve food security, offer new economic roles to young adults, increase leadership opportunities for women and improve family income, directly benefiting 50 families in the departments of La Paz, San Vicente, Santa Ana, Ahuachapán and Chalatenango. (ES-215)

***Asociación de Desarrollo Económico y Social Santa Marta*** (ADESSMA), \$349,245 over three years

ADESSMA will expand and strengthen its agricultural production and marketing program, assisting 100 families through training and technical assistance in hothouse and hydroponics technologies, organizational development, and marketing of agricultural products. Young volunteers will operate a community radio station to complement the program. (ES-216)

***Fundación Salvadoreña para la Reconstrucción y el Desarrollo*** (REDES), \$459,000 over four years

REDES will assist 18 communities characterized by high migration rates in the departments of Cabañas, Cuscatlán, San Vicente and La Paz through an economic development program providing grants for six community projects. The grants will be matched by contributions from hometown associations. Loans and sub-grants will be awarded to 240 families for microbusinesses, including 90 pilot enterprises managed by young adults. (ES-217)



COURTESY REDES





COURTESY REDES

## Options for Young Salvadorans

*Almost everything that is great has been done by youth.*  
— Benjamin, Earl of Beaconsfield, Disraeli

In contrast to the aging populations of the developed nations, 40 percent of Latin Americans are under 30. For this generation, upon which the region's future rests, the return to democracy and the economic boom of the 1990s has brought disappointment. Political and economic crises, unemployment, poverty and lack of opportunities make migration and gang membership seem like the only alternatives. On this landscape, many Salvadoran communities have been abandoned by young men and women who have moved on; some have become crime-ridden areas where the level of violence perpetrated by gangs surpasses that of the recent civil war.

**Fundación Salvadoreña para la Reconstrucción y el Desarrollo** (REDES) has a solid record of success that includes housing projects, post-earthquake relief, the establishment of credit, agricultural and artisan cooperatives, and loans and technical assistance to thousands of small businesses. A previous IAF grant helped REDES create the Mercado Sobre Ruedas de Mejicanos, a mobile market whose rotation through several neighborhoods in San Salvador provides shopkeepers with steady business and reduces congestion. Now, in collaboration with hometown associations (HTAs), REDES wants to offer young Salvadorans economic and social choices.

Through REDES' previous accomplishments, the staff became familiar with the problems facing youths in the communities it serves. Interest deepened when REDES participated in the Bienvenido a Casa program, which helps reintegrate deportees into Salvadoran society. In partnership with Catholic Relief Services, REDES provided approximately 26,000 deportees, mostly youths, counseling, job training, tattoo removal and other services.

With IAF's assistance, REDES will offer technical assistance and training to business owners as well as access to several subgrant funds and matching funding donated by HTAs. One fund will support young entrepreneurs in 12 communities in the departments of Cabañas, San Vicente, La Paz and Cuscatlán. Another will be available to returned deportees. A small loan fund will support further business development by young people and adults. REDES and HTAs will also sponsor several community development projects designed in conjunction with local organizations. Other activities include cultural and sports events directed at holding the interest of young project participants and cementing ties to their communities. Although REDES cannot entirely eliminate the pressures that lead young Salvadorans to migrate or join gangs, it may offer them a better path toward maturity and away from despair. — *Eduardo Rodríguez-Frías, program staff assistant*

## Supplemental Grants

**Patronato para el Desarrollo de las Comunidades de Morazán y San Miguel** (PADECOMSM), \$32,670 over six months.

PADECOMSM, in collaboration with the Asociación de Lisiados de Guerra de El Salvador (ALGES), will assess the socio-economic conditions of the disabled sector in Morazán. Based on this assessment, the grantee will provide workshops and training sessions for approximately 300 members of ALGES to promote their full inclusion in community life. (ES-180-A5)

**Centro de Recursos Centroamericanos Internacional-El Salvador** (CARECEN), \$17,700

CARECEN will hire a community organizing consultant to provide technical assistance to hometown associations (HTAs) in Southern California, identify migrant leaders, and facilitate communication among HTAs, communities of origin and the grantee. (ES-210-A1)

## Supplemental Grant

*Organizasyon Defans dwa Peyizan Sen Michel* (ODDEPS), \$22,516 over 18 months

This supplemental grant will allow ODDEPS to resume activities interrupted during Haiti's 2004 political crisis, offset the effect of inflation and strengthen the animal husbandry component of its original project. (HA-197-A2)







## HONDURAS

### New Grant

**Consejo de Desarrollo de Sector Social de la Economía Regional de Intibucá** (CODESSE-Intibucá), \$173,742 over three years

CODESSE-Intibucá will strengthen enterprises selected from among its member businesses, and, in the process, will build its own institutional capacity as well as its credibility in representing its members' interest in policy venues. It will help participating businesses with capacity-building, purchasing fixed assets and equipment, and with marketing their products. (HO-239)

### Supplemental Grant

**Agua Para el Pueblo (APP)**, \$99,956 over one year

APP will offer training related to water supply and sanitation systems, develop water-user associations, improve four water supply systems, and construct three new systems and 60 latrines. This will improve the ability of small, rural communities to install, deliver and manage these public services. (HO-237-A1)

## *Developing Businesses for Better Lives*

Intibucá is known for its agricultural and mineral resources, yet poverty is prevalent throughout the department, particularly among young indigenous Lenca. **Consejo de Desarrollo del Sector Social de la Economía, Regional de Intibucá** (CODESSE-Intibucá) seeks to reduce this poverty by improving the capacity of its member businesses and, consequently, the well-being of the business owners.

CODESSE-Intibucá's origins can be traced to an IAF grant to the Instituto para la Cooperación y Autodesarrollo (ICADE) in the early 1990s. The grant helped ICADE develop the concept of the social enterprise as embracing all businesses that use their profits to raise the standard of living of their worker-owners. ICADE also wanted to promote Honduras' Social Sector of the Economy Act (SSE), a law passed in 1985 to further the notion that economic activity should produce benefits for the family but that had not yet been applied. Working with the Consejo Hondureño del Sector Social de la Economía (COHDESSE), ICADE founded CODESSE-Intibucá, the first regional organization of social enterprises in southern Honduras, which has since spawned 11 similar organizations across the country.

CODESSE-Intibucá's mission centers on the development of initiatives consistent with the SSE: first-tier grassroots groups, cooperatives, partnerships of rural businesses, community stores, credit unions, producer associations, savings and loan associations and multipurpose service businesses; and second-tier federations, labor unions, cooperative agro-industrial businesses, financial services institutions and the regional CODESSE-Intibucá organizations. The SSE, which led to the formation of CODESSE, is considered a pioneering advance. While the code provisions required to fully apply the law have not yet been drafted, even without this legal framework CODESSE has taken a position at the table with the other major players in Honduras' commercial and industrial sectors.

The grantee will use its IAF award to provide 12 participating businesses, all CODESSE members, with training, technical assistance and modest capital to invest in equipment and infrastructure that increase their competitiveness. In particular, CODESSE will improve the participants' management skills and strengthen organizational and administrative structures, quality control, production infrastructure, and marketing capabilities. Approximately 200 individuals, mostly young Lenca Indians, will benefit. — *John Reed, Foundation representative*

## New Grants

***Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo***  
(FUNDE), \$150,000 for six months

FUNDE organized the Second Summit on Decentralization and Local Governance for specialists working in economic development and representing civil society, government, international organizations and business. Participants in the July conference in San Salvador compiled a declaration for the Summit of the Americas. (LA-167)

***VINCULAR Responsabilidad Social Empresarial*** (VINCULAR), \$150,000 over one year

VINCULAR will advance the knowledge of the Inter-American Corporate Social Responsibility Network members by engaging approximately 1,500 business leaders and community groups in seminars focused on corporate social responsibility and timed to CSR conferences in Sao Paulo and Santiago. The grantee will organize additional meetings and maintain and update [www.responsibilidadsocial.org](http://www.responsibilidadsocial.org). (LA-168)



## Supplementary Grant

**Organizaciones Mundo Afro** (Mundo Afro),  
\$100,000

Mundo Afro will use its supplemental funding to strengthen and expand the network of African-descendent communities that it developed with its original IAF award. Project activities, which include programs focused on education, micro-enterprise development and cultural preservation, will be inaugurated in additional communities in Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil. (LA-161-A1)



SEAN SPRAGUE

## New Grants

***Maquiladora Dignidad y Justicia*** (MDJ), \$59,300 for two years

MDJ will strengthen a worker-run garment enterprise on the U.S.-Mexican border, developing management and production skills as well as market opportunities and expanding its labor force. (ME-475)

***Subcomité de Productores Ovicaprinos de Michoacán A.C.*** (SPOM), \$400,000 over four years

SPOM will further the consolidation of a regional goat-milk producers' association, develop a new system for collecting and processing milk, and begin production and sale of value-added items such as cheese, flavored milk and candies. By improving milk quality through technical assistance and training, and by providing marketing support and entering into new sales arrangements, the grantee aims to increase the income of 2,000 members in 25 municipalities in northern Michoacán. (ME-476)

***Organización de Ejidos Productores Forestales de la Zona Maya*** (OEPFZM), \$395,000 over three years

OEPFZM will offer training and technical assistance to associations in the state of Quintana Roo that process and market non-timber forest products, with emphasis on gum and honey. The program aims to strengthen the associations and increase income while preserving natural resources. Approximately 450 Mayan families are expected to directly benefit from better prices for traditional agricultural goods in niche markets. (ME-477)

***Miel Solidaria Campesina A.C.*** (MISOCA), \$399,500 over four years

MISOCA will provide training and technical assistance to 200 small-scale, primarily indigenous beekeepers and their producer associations in the states of Veracruz, Puebla, Guerrero and Oaxaca. The program will include participatory planning and evaluation activities, the development of a new training center equipped with accessible educational materials, a market study, and a fund for productive projects. The grantee aims to improve beekeepers' technical skills, increase their productive capacity and sales, and strengthen their associations. (ME-478)

## Supplemental Grants

***Pronatura Chiapas, A.C.*** (Pronatura), \$97,790

Pronatura will provide training and technical assistance to further strengthen and consolidate local coffee, forestry and microfinance organizations in Northern Chiapas. The program will diversify family incomes, increase the capacity of small businesses and producer organizations, promote conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, and mobilize resources in support of development. (ME-448-A3)

***Alternare, A.C.*** (Alternare), \$99,888

Alternare will provide training and technical assistance and will manage a loan fund to further strengthen and consolidate its support for small-scale farmers in and around the Monarch Butterfly Reserve. The program will increase food security, improve the capacity of micro- and small businesses and producer groups, and promote conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. (ME-457-A4)

***Fundación Internacional de la Comunidad, A.C.*** (FIC), \$30,624

FIC will purchase and maintain a vehicle for use in visiting its expanding program throughout the state of Baja California. (ME-460-A2)



JIM ADRIANCE



## *Adding Value to Goat Farming*

In 1998, goat farmers in Michoacán formed the **Subcomité de Productores Ovicaprinos de Michoacán A.C. (SPOM)**, a producers' association dedicated to combating brucellosis, a disease affecting goats throughout the state. Through a series of vaccination and other campaigns related to animal health, the proportion of infected animals in the region has since declined from 60 percent to 12 percent. Beyond this impressive achievement, the experience served to unite goat farmers into local and regional groups working together to address other concerns, including low milk prices.

Over the past few years, SPOM has assisted the formation of these groups and has helped them obtain government and private funding. Recently, SPOM has channeled funds to farmers for stables, simple milking parlors, cold storage tanks and milking equipment. In some municipalities, the local groups have successfully lobbied for road repairs and better access to electricity. Member goat farmers have demonstrated their commitment to their respective groups by donating time, money and more than 10,000 liters of milk for use in the development of value-added products such as powdered and ultrapasteurized milk.

With its IAF grant, SPOM will provide approximately 2,000 goat farmers and their producer groups technical assistance, marketing support and training in animal health, organizational development, sales and marketing. Under SPOM's new system for collecting and processing members' milk, a larger portion of profits will accrue to local farmers rather than to intermediary buyers. Through the promotion of good milking and sanitation practices, SPOM hopes to improve milk quality and raise the price that farmers receive for raw milk. In addition, the grantee plans to develop and expand sales of value-added products, including cheese, candies, and milk in flavors of vanilla, chocolate, banana and caramel-like cajeta.

IAF funds will primarily support program components focusing on milk collection, processing, sales, organizational consolidation and building partnerships. Key sources of other support for SPOM's animal health activities include state and federal agricultural agencies. As a result of this project, the grantee hopes to revive and maintain goat farming as an economic option that generates a livable wage, serves as an alternative to migration, and brings new hope and possibilities to farmers in Michoacán. — *Jill Wheeler, Foundation representative*



JILL WHEELER





SEAN SPRAGUE

## N I C A R A G U A

### New Grants

**Cooperativa de Servicios Múltiples Tepeyac** (Tepeyac), \$398,000 over three years

Tepeyac will increase the income of dairy farmers by constructing a pasteurizing and processing plant, offering technical and financial assistance to improve dairy production and strengthen the local dairy sector, and by providing support for marketing activities. (NC-263)

**Red de Organizaciones Civiles de Ometepe** (ROCO), \$145,003 over three years

ROCO will improve the capacity of civil society organizations in Ometepe through strengthening the organizations' network, providing capacity-building assistance and training to representatives of ROCO's members, developing opportunities for civic engagement, and administering a sub-grant program to fund community development activities. (NC-264)

**Fundación Luchadores Integrados al Desarrollo de la Región** (LIDER), \$32,430 over six months

LIDER will prepare and begin implementing an economic development plan for 18 rural communities in the Cosiguina Volcano Nature Reserve. The grantee will provide capacity-building assistance and training to community representatives; staff and consultant support for a participatory planning process; and cash and in-kind resources for community development activities in support of the plan. (NC-265)



SEAN SPRAGUE





## *Building Civic Capacity for Development*

### Supplemental Grants

#### ***Asociación para el Desarrollo de la Costa Atlántica*** (PANA PANA) \$89,000

PANA PANA will support sustainable food and forestry production, marketing of crops, and micro-enterprise development; construct grain storage structures; and strengthen base groups in 11 indigenous Miskito communities. (NC-235-A4)

#### ***Fondo de Desarrollo para la Mujer-Cenzontle*** (FODEM), \$99,000

FODEM will train 780 active women participants in its ongoing credit programs, in an effort to increase the income from and sustainability of their businesses and, ultimately, the quality of life of the women and their families. (NC-244-A1)

#### ***Movimiento por la Paz, Acción Forestal y el Medio Ambiente*** (MOPAF-MA) \$98,000

MOPAF-MA will consolidate the advances of its original project, improve agricultural production, add value to produce, strengthen marketing strategies and create more direct links with markets. (NC-247-A1)

Ometepe is a picturesque island that appears to float in Lake Nicaragua; two conical silhouettes testify to its volcanic origins. A natural treasure, Ometepe was declared a reserve and heritage site by the Nicaraguan government in 1995. The recognition validated the sense of pride and place felt by 35,000 permanent residents who have a long tradition of protecting and preserving their quality of life and promoting economic opportunities on the island.

A recent expression of this pride is an initiative led by the ***Red de Organizaciones Civiles de Ometepe*** (ROCO), a network of 13 community-based organizations dedicated to furthering sustainable development in the island's two municipalities, Moyogalpa and Altagracia. ROCO's process of civic engagement produced the Ometepe Sustainable Development Plan, a document articulating a common vision of the community's priorities in several areas, including economic development, citizen participation, environment and natural resource conservation and basic services. The plan creates a commission to regulate tourism, preserving the local culture and maximizing quality of life for both residents and visitors alike. It emphasizes strengthening the agricultural sector with the construction of a produce collection center and the development of a municipal plan for promoting exports. And it calls for opportunities for citizens to participate in the local government's decision-making process.

ROCO's members recognize that making the plan a reality requires the participation of the entire community. As a result, they are embarking on an experiment in civic action. Through a program that includes a series of civic forums and town hall meetings, capacity-building for community-based organizations, educational activities, and a grant fund, ROCO expects to create a critical mass of support for the plan. The IAF is interested in this project from a learning perspective and will follow the process, observing how a network like ROCO can facilitate activities undertaken by citizens and community-based organizations in support of development. — *Philip Walsh*, Foundation representative

## PANAMA

### New Grant

**Fundación Baru Pro Desarrollo Socioeconómico de la Comunidad** (FUNBARU), \$163,939 over two years

FUNBARU will work in Paja de Sombrero with a community organization that is introducing bamboo as an alternate source of income and a means for preserving the environment. The grantee will directly assist with capacity-building, investment capital for fixed assets and equipment, and with marketing bamboo products while the community organization becomes legally constituted. (PN-279)



MARK CAICEDO



MARK CAICEDO

### Supplemental Grants

**Centro de Estudio para la Promoción del Desarrollo** (PRODES), \$20,060 over seven months

PRODES will train young people in Portobelo and increase their historical and cultural awareness so that they can take advantage of the rapid expansion of the local tourist economy. (PN-265-A5)

**Fundación para la Promoción de la Mujer** (FUNDAMUJER), \$75,000

FUNDAMUJER will conduct additional training for women in carpentry and construction as well as computer skills. It will document its methodology for use by other organizations and develop a catalog for promoting the sale of crafts produced by the women artisans it trains. Equipment will be purchased to support the training. (PN-267-A4)

**Instituto Panameño de Desarrollo Humano y Municipal** (IPADEHM), \$87,000

IPADEHM will continue to support construction, water, infrastructure and other projects selected by beneficiaries and financed through its community investment fund. Some training and technical assistance will also be offered. Activities are expected to increase the grantee's 27,000 current beneficiaries by an additional 648. (PN-273-A3)





## *Bamboo to Improve the Economy and Protect the Environment*

**I**t was in our backyards and we didn't realize it," said a resident of Paja de Sombrero, in Panama's Gualaca district, during a community meeting. He was referring to a species of bamboo found throughout tropical Latin America and known in Panama as *bambú guadua*, or simply *cañaza*. Common in Gualaca, it had been underestimated as a renewable resource because little is known about its cultivation and wide range of uses—and because bamboo has been regarded as a nuisance.

**Fundación Baru Pro Desarrollo Socioeconómico de la Comunidad** (FUNBARU) is a regional foundation dedicated to improving the lives of the poor while promoting environmental preservation through use of appropriate models of development. It plans to introduce bamboo as a cash crop in Bajo Méndez and La Palma in Paja de Sombrero, two communities where the economy is floundering and cannot support the local population. Farmers currently survive as day laborers but can only find such work locally two or three days a week. Some seek employment part of the year in other areas. The lack of opportunity pushes young people to leave permanently for larger cities and Costa Rica.

Bamboo has a strong economic potential as well as benefits for the environment. Its uses include housing and other structures, furniture, crafts, food, and products as diverse as tooth picks, chop sticks, flooring and paper. After the leaves and branches are removed from most tree species, about one-third of the tree mass is usable, in contrast to almost all of the bamboo plant. A hectare can accommodate about 150 average trees; 10,000 bamboo stalks will fit in the same space. The plant's root system fights erosion and so do its fallen leaves. Moreover, bamboo is one of the most efficient plants at converting carbon dioxide into oxygen.

FUNBARU's staff is confident that bamboo will increase the productive capacity of the available land in the targeted communities and protect the soil and the local watershed. With its IAF funding, the grantee will provide the necessary training and technical assistance to the farmers participating in this project. Eventually residents of these rural communities may be able to take advantage of other opportunities that an ample supply of bamboo might offer, which may reduce the pressure to migrate.

— John Reed, Foundation representative



JOHN REED



## New Grants

**Asociación Minga-Peru** (Minga-Peru), \$75,000 over 18 months

Minga-Peru will strengthen its network of rural women who use training, economic projects and radio programs to promote preventive health practices, gender equity and income generation in 55 indigenous communities on the banks of the Marañon and Tigre tributaries of the Amazon River. The activities will reach 30,000 women in the riverside communities. (PU-527)

**Centro de Investigación, Capacitación, Asesoría y Promoción** (CICAP), \$281,800 over three years

CICAP will provide training, technical assistance and capital to 400 farmers in the Upper Zaña River Basin toward applying an economically and environmentally sustainable management plan to the area's bamboo forests and toward improving job opportunities and income through micro-enterprises that process the bamboo. (PU-528)

**Asociación para la Defensa Ecológica** (DeEco), \$93,785 over two years

DeEco will provide training, technical assistance and equipment for 360 women trash handlers as they develop enterprises to increase their income from segregating solid waste for recycling and composting. DeEco will also organize an education campaign to teach the residents of Trujillo to separate organic and inorganic waste before collection. (PU-529)

**Comunidad Nativa el Infierno** (CNI), \$112,878 over 27 months

CNI will conduct various training activities for its members that will allow them to exercise greater leadership in current and future economic development projects undertaken by their indigenous community. (PN-530)

**Asociación Cultural Ayllu Yupaychay** (YUPAY), \$321,760 over three years

YUPAY will design, apply and evaluate a more appropriate methodology for teaching indigenous children and youths in remote Andean highland communities of Cusco. Approximately 360 children in 12 communities will participate in the validation of the methodology. (PU-531)

**Asociación Especializada para el Desarrollo Sostenible** (AEDES) \$299,000 over three years

AEDES will provide training, technical assistance, supplies, equipment and access to markets for approximately 1,000 farmers growing and processing organic grains and herbs in the highland areas of Arequipa and Puno. The farmers will be guided in the formation of alliances and consortia to improve their bargaining power as buyers and sellers. (PU-532)

**Asociación de Productores Agropecuarios de Chuquibamba** (APROACH), \$220,000 over 30 months

APROACH will increase the production of local dairy farms, cheese processors and very small pig-raising operations by providing training, technical assistance, supplies, artificial insemination services, a marketing campaign and small amounts of capital support. (PU-533)





## Development over the Air Waves

For 30 minutes three times each week, *Minga Peru* captures the attention of thousands of indigenous women in remote communities along the tributaries of the Amazon River in northern Peru. Over the air waves comes a radio broadcast, “Bienvenida Salud” (welcome health) on topics relevant to the women’s daily life. The very serious subject matter is presented via lively, often humorous vignettes that quickly absorb the listener. Each program conveys a multi-generational perspective as grandmother, mother and children discuss a particular topic as if around a kitchen table. The characters speak the local dialect of Spanish and the script incorporates indigenous phrases whenever possible.

An estimated 30,000 women regularly tune in and many are moved to respond. In more than 400 letters or oral messages a week, they share relevant personal experiences, request additional information or suggest topics they would like addressed on the air. With its IAF grant, Minga will produce another 200 spirited episodes of “Bienvenida Salud” in response to its listeners’ concerns. The jousting and witty exchanges will also reduce commonly held inhibitions, empowering the listeners as mothers, companions, citizens, leaders, breadwinners — and as women.

As popular as the program is, personal contact is essential to the full application of the information broadcast. So Minga recruits local volunteers as rural promoters to meet with women in their vicinity and discuss the topics aired in greater detail. These approximately 55 rural promoters also initiate activities that will directly benefit the listeners and their families. At promoter-organized gatherings, women engage in handicrafts, preventive health practices, small scale livestock projects and food processing, while considering ways to build self-esteem and leadership skills and exercise their rights as citizens.

In addition to providing these services, Minga is also using its IAF grant to further train the promoters whose efforts complement the radio program. Multi-day workshops will hone their skills in organizing income-generating activities and in providing technical training for ventures such as fish farming, cultivating medicinal plants, fruit processing, poultry production and weaving natural fibers. A series of regional meetings and field visits will bring them into contact with technicians, educators and government specialists. The trained promoters are key to a network that will enable thousands of indigenous women to realize their potential within their family, community and society. — Wilbur Wright, senior Foundation representative

## Supplemental Grants

### ***Centro para la Promoción del Desarrollo y Capacitación*** (CEDCAP), \$87,000

CEDCAP will purchase spinning machines, looms and knitting equipment in connection with its training of approximately 80 women to produce and market knitted and woven garments for domestic and international markets. (PU-502-A3)

### ***Instituto Regional para la Educación y el Desarrollo*** (REDES) \$49,900 over six months.

REDES will strengthen women-led organizations through participatory training that will enable the leadership to improve their entrepreneurship, organizational management, and social and personal development. (PU-503-A2)

### ***Centro de Estudios en Población y Desarrollo de La Libertad*** (CEPDEL) \$79,930

CEPDEL will complete its training and technical assistance in the production of artichokes and improved varieties of traditional legumes for 360 farmers in 18 highland communities in the region of La Libertad. (PU-512-A3)





## New Grants

***Una Casa un Sueño*** (UCUS),  
\$100,000 over two years

UCUS will provide training in home construction and urban farming and will set up a fund to finance urban agriculture activities for approximately 85 residents of Villa del Chanco, a poor neighborhood in Montevideo. Residents will build at least 25 new homes on land donated by the municipality. The program will include participatory planning and exchanges with earlier UCUS beneficiaries. (UR-179)

***Asociación de Productores de Leche de Paysandú*** (APLP) \$298,245 over three years

APLP will strengthen agricultural networks and develop the productive potential of individual family farmers through technical training and a revolving loan fund. It will also encourage participation in *mesas zonales* where rural residents meet, plan and negotiate solutions to community concerns. In collaboration with the Consejo Económico Social, APLP will provide access to sub-grants to fund proposals addressing health, education, infrastructure maintenance and other issues. (UR-180)



COURTESY UCUS



## Organizing a Community for Rural Development

Migration from the countryside, due to years of unabated economic crises, has placed significant pressure on major Uruguayan urban areas, and Paysandú, a town and department of about 60,000 inhabitants near the Argentine border, is no exception. But Paysandú enjoys an advantage that other places might not: active civil society organizations. In 2000, some of these, including **Asociación Productores Lecheros de Paysandú** (APLP), joined with businesses, government agencies, the local university and other grassroots organizations to form el Consejo Económico Social (CES) and draft a long-term development plan identifying income-generating projects throughout the department.

APLP was founded in 1954 and registered as a legal entity in 1959.

Its roots can be traced to the first local union representing small dairy farmers, and its goal is to promote the quality of life of its members, their families and their communities through productive activities. APLP first began to strengthen its organization and consolidate its market by forming the Colepay cooperative and selling milk products to Pili S.A. for processing. As a result, Paysandú soon became a dairy production hub. Since then, its services have expanded to include technical training, radio and other communication, basic infrastructure maintenance, health benefits and access to credit.

With funding from the IAF, APLP will further strengthen producer networks and also benefit 100 family farms by developing the potential of individual farmers. As a founding member of the CES, it will encourage participation in *mesas zonales*, akin to neighborhood boards, where rural residents negotiate solutions to community concerns. A multi-disciplinary team comprised of staff from APLP as well as the Asociación de Productores Lecheros de Parada Esperanza, the Universidad de la República's Paysandú campus and the CES will oversee and coordinate activities. APLP will offer training in land use planning, animal husbandry, crop production and diversification, the economic analysis of family plots and organizational development. Its revolving loan funds will finance marketing assistance, transport, and purchases of farm equipment and supplies. A sub-grant fund will support community proposals for informal education, health clinics, rural roads, marketing, recreational projects and, for rural residents not involved in agricultural, non-farm employment alternatives.

This kind of program addresses Uruguay's migration trend head on by funding community priorities and improving personal income.

— Gabriela Boyer, Foundation representative



COURTESY APLP

## V E N E Z U E L A

### New Grants

***Agencia para el Desarrollo de la Pequeña Agroindustria en las Zonas Rurales de Venezuela*** (Agendair), \$271,350 over three years

Agendair will work with La Fe y Pimpinela, an enterprise owned and operated by small-scale producers of sugar cane. The goal of the collaboration is four collectively-owned sugar mills, which would allow the farmers to process raw sugar, and to develop at least three new products. The transferred technology and capital will benefit 200 families in the state of Portuguesa. (VZ-194)

***Fundación Agencia de Desarrollo Planificado*** (PLANDES), \$35,000 over one year

PLANDES will assess the feasibility of a social franchise enterprise in which Afro-Venezuelan communities in up to four states will participate. The grantee will undertake a market analysis, investigate the benefits of registering a brand name for the products and services offered by the enterprise, and research alternative organizational structures to coordinate production and marketing. (VZ-195)

***Círculos Femininos Populares-Mérida*** (CFP-Mérida), \$54,691 over two years

CFP-Mérida will promote conflict resolution and civic participation in 10 communities in four municipalities of Mérida: Libertador, Campo Elías, Sucre and Pinto Salinas. The grantee will enable 200 women, men and youths to join representatives of health clinics, public schools and community associations in drafting four social development projects for submission to the respective municipal governments for funding. (VZ-197)

***Fundación para la Capacitación y Mejoramiento Social del Joven Torrense*** (FUNCAMET), \$336,130 over three years

FUNCAMET will train at least 200 youths in entrepreneurship, integrate at least 100 producers in the collective farming of aloe and in marketing it in Venezuela and internationally, and construct a rustic hospitality center, el Jardín de Aloe. Some of the trained youths will be employed at the center which will sell aloe plants and products. Revenues will finance FUNCAMET's future projects. (VZ-198)



## *Branding a Heritage for Economic Development*

Venezuelans of African descent may find intellectual property rights an untapped resource in their economic development strategy. The IAF has awarded **Fundación Agencia de Desarrollo Planificado** (PLANDES), in collaboration with the national network of Afro-Venezuelans, a planning grant to assess the collective social and financial capital of Afro-Venezuelan entrepreneurs. Specifically, PLANDES will study the market potential of goods produced by and services offered by Afro-Venezuelans under a legally protected brand name. These would include candies, condiments, musical instruments, leather goods, textiles and clothing as well as performances of and instruction in music, storytelling and dance. PLANDES will also research the most appropriate structures for capitalizing and distributing these products and services.

To maximize its project's potential, PLANDES is working closely with a variety of Venezuelan government programs: FONDEMI, a federal financial institution recently created to reduce poverty by offering access to technical assistance and microcredit; the Instituto Nacional del Desarrollo de la Pequeña y Mediana Industria (INAPyMI), an agency similar to the U.S. government's Small Business Administration; and Servicios Autonomo de la Propriedad Intelectual (SAPI) the agency responsible for intellectual property rights.

The PLANDES project would break new ground in Venezuela and in the broader Latin American community of African descendants. To date, few experiments have addressed collective production and branding, social franchises, or culturally-based intellectual property. If PLANDES' assessment indicates that these concepts have a practical application to the marketplace, Afro-Venezuelans might use their cultural heritage as a platform for economic development. The goal is a source of financial capital leading to sustainable businesses in African descendent communities. — *Audra Jones, Foundation representative*



## REDEAMÉRICA PROGRAM

RedEAmérica, the Inter-American Network of Corporate Foundations and Actions for Grassroots Development is an IAF-initiated private-sector alliance. Since its founding in 2002, it has grown from 12 business and corporate foundation members to 55.

Under three-year bilateral cooperative agreements, individual RedEAmérica members receive IAF funding for sub-grants, training and technical assistance supporting the self-help efforts of grassroots organizations. In 2005, the IAF funded five new agreements and amended seven previous agreements with additional funding. Earlier agreements called for the RedEAmérica members to match the IAF's investment. The terms of the agreements signed in 2005 were modified to require the RedEAmérica partners to assume all administrative expenses incurred in supporting grassroots development and to donate to a country- or region-specific fund ("decentralized fund") an amount equal to double the IAF's investment. Six decentralized funds, totaling \$2,092,000, were created in 2005 with the respective parties' resources or contributions raised from other sources.

In fiscal 2005, IAF's funding supported advances related to RedEAmérica's learning and training programs, coordinated, respectively, by Argentina's Juan Minetti Foundation and the Corona Foundation of Colombia. RedEAmérica's first round of regional workshops on the basic principles applicable to supporting community membership organizations of poor people, on indicators for project evaluation, and on standardized projects budgets, drew 165 participants representing 41 foundations from seven countries. Additionally, Fundación Arcor of Argentina began coordinating a study of key issues in business and community relations, and Fundación Esquel of Ecuador studied best models and practices for resource mobilization.

Finally, RedEAmérica's Council of Directors drafted a plan for the creation of a Global Fund for Grassroots Development which would seek resources for grassroots development from donors worldwide.



PAULA DURBIN

## Cooperative Agreements

**Instituto Holcim** (Holcim) \$63,000

Instituto Holcim was legally incorporated in 2002 as the corporate foundation of Holcim, a Brazilian holding company that produces cement and concrete. It will partner with Associação Ortopolis Barroso, a community foundation, to support self-help projects in Barroso and Pedro Leopoldo, Minas Gerais. (BR-817/CP-016)

**Instituto de Cidadania Empresarial** (ICE) \$100,000

ICE, a civil society organization founded in 1999 by a group of Brazilian business professionals, will focus on serving young people in Real Parque and Jardim Panorama, communities in the southwestern zone of the city of Sao Paulo. (BR-822/CP-017)

**Fundación Telefónica-Chile** (Telefónica-Chile) \$145,000

Telefónica-Chile, a corporate foundation legally constituted in 1999 under the auspices of the Telefónica Group and Fundación Telefónica-Spain, will support projects emphasizing individuals with special needs in central Chile. (CH-513/CP-022)

**Corporación Sociedad Activa** (CSA) \$260,000

CSA was legally constituted in May 2004 as the corporate foundation for eight multinational companies active in Chile: 3M, Coca-Cola, DHL, IBM, Xerox, Kodak, Procter & Gamble and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Its decentralized fund will support projects with a focus on underprivileged residents of subsidized housing in metropolitan Santiago. (CH-514/CP-023)

**Fundación Empresarial Acción  
Responsabilidad Social Empresarial** (Acción  
RSE) \$260,000

Acción RSE was legally constituted in 2000 as the corporate foundation for 46 Chilean and international businesses in diverse sectors. It will support grassroots development through the creation of various decentralized funds receiving donations from throughout Chile. (CH-515/CP-024)

## Cooperative Agreement Amendments

**Fundación Arcor** (Arcor) \$190,000

The Arcor Company's corporate foundation will expand its support of self-help development projects serving children and adolescents through a decentralized fund that receives support from multiple partners. Arcor will also coordinate a special study of alternative strategies and best practices for engaging grassroots organizations. (AR-332/CP-003-A1)

**Fundação Otacílio Coser** (Coser) \$130,000

Coser, the corporate foundation for Grupo Coimex in Brazil, will support self-help projects in Espírito Santo's Aribiri River region. It will also lead the Brazilian RedEAmérica members in forming and managing Common Project, a sub-grant fund that will support grassroots development throughout the country. (BR-812/CP-007-A1)

**Fundação Otacílio Coser** (Coser), \$50,000

Coser will offer Common Project's sub-grantees training, technical assistance, and workshops and exchanges. (BR-812/CP-007-A2)

**Corporación Consorcio para el Desarrollo  
Comunitario** (Consorcio), \$260,000

The Consorcio of nine corporate foundations was founded in 1998 with the goal of developing a more equal, prosperous, democratic society through promoting and strengthening community organizations. With eight Colombian RedEAmérica members it will create a decentralized fund to support self-help development projects throughout the country. (CO-498/CP-010-A2)

**Ecuador, Fundación Lann Nobis**  
(Lann-Nobis), \$225,000

Lann-Nobis, legally constituted in 1996 as the corporate foundation for Nobis, a consortium of companies in the agricultural, gas and alcohol, real estate, tourism, commercial and export sectors, will emphasize the self-help development projects of Afro-Ecuadorians in the coastal provinces of Guayas, El Oro, Esmeraldas and Manabí. A decentralized coastal fund will support Lann-Nobis' efforts. (EC-384/CP-005-A1)

**Fundación Esquel Ecuador** (FEE), \$91,500

FEE, founded by a group of economists, sociologists, businessmen and others, will hire and supervise consultants on the implementation of the RedEAmérica Global Fund for Grassroots Development. (EC-385/CP-006-A3)

**Fundación Esquel Ecuador** (FEE), \$89,000

As part of its groundwork on the Global Fund, FEE will develop a Web-based information system on all member-supported grassroots projects. (EC-385/CP-006-A4)





## Office of Evaluation

The IAF Office of Evaluation monitors, evaluates and audits projects financed by the IAF.

### RESULTS REPORTING

Using a menu of indicators from IAF's Grassroots Development Framework (GDF), it collects and records the results of all projects as reported by IAF's grantees and verified by in-country contractors through two annual field visits during which they conduct interviews with beneficiaries, partners, grant managers and technical staff.

### EVALUATIONS

To complement its routine results monitoring, the IAF performs annual in-depth evaluations of a random sample of 10 IAF-funded projects completed two years earlier. In fiscal 2005, the IAF continued working with the Getulio Vargas Foundation, a research institution in Brazil, whose five-year contract provides for the application of an evaluation method consistent with the diversity of goals and objectives represented in the projects. Lessons from these evaluations are discussed among IAF staff and shared with a wider audience through IAF's publications.

### AUDITS

The IAF also contracts in-country audit firms for periodic financial reviews of IAF-funded projects. In addition to their monitoring and risk mitigation functions, contracted auditors also offer grantees hands-on guidance in accounting and financial management. Under a new audit contract, set to begin in January 2006, IAF contractors will perform an orientation and a detailed risk assessment at the start of every project. These consultations are designed to assist grantees in understanding their financial responsibilities and to reduce the possibility of future audit issues. In fiscal 2005, the auditors' reviews included 150 detailed reports supported by on-site testing and field work. The work of our professional team of contracted audit firms, supervised by the IAF audit office, strengthens our grantees' fiscal management skills and provides assurance that funds are being used as intended. — *Emilia Rodríguez-Stein, director, Office of Evaluation*



SEAN SPRAGUE



### **In 2004, IAF grantees reported the following results:**

- More than 19,000 beneficiaries improved their diet.
- More than 32,000 received medical attention.
- Close to 10,000 gained access to clean water.
- More than 40,000 benefited from the introduction of trash removal operations;
- IAF grantees in eight countries helped build 221 new homes and improve 1,006 existing homes.
- IAF-funded courses, workshops and seminars trained 52,000 individuals in finance, including loan management, approximately 32,000 in agriculture and environment-related topics, close to 17,000 in management, and close to 8,000 in health issues, such as prenatal care and disease prevention.
- IAF-funded activities created more than 3,800 full-time permanent positions and 1,100 part-time positions.
- Grant activities also generated 3,600 full-time seasonal jobs and 3,300 part-time seasonal positions.
- More than 1,700 organizations voluntarily cooperated with IAF grantees.
- Of the 644 organizations in partnerships with IAF grantees, 320 became partners in fiscal 2004.
- Grantees mobilized \$5.3 million and brokered another \$4.8 million for project activities, or a combined total of \$10.1 million (\$7.2 million in cash and \$2.9 million in kind).
- Central government institutions were the most generous to IAF grantees, donating \$3.8 million, most of it in cash.
- International nonprofit organizations contributed \$1.25 million to IAF grantees.
- IAF grantees extended close to 195,000 loans averaging \$393 each.
- Grantees disseminated information on approaches, practices and/or techniques in 17 of the 19 countries where the IAF funds activities.

## Dissemination

The Office of External Affairs produces and distributes the Inter-American Foundation's publications and news releases and maintains the IAF Web site. Its dissemination effort is complemented by an agency-wide commitment to sharing IAF's experience and expertise with the development and foreign affairs communities and with interested scholars and researchers. Along with IAF staff, grantee representatives and other development professionals have brought their insights to venues that include conferences and events around the world. During fiscal 2005, 175 travel grants were awarded to support this participation.

### PUBLICATIONS

English and Spanish versions of IAF's 2004 *in Review* and *Grassroots Development* 2005 were printed and distributed; the annual report and the journal were posted on the Web site in pdf and html format in English, Spanish and Portuguese. This year's *Grassroots Development* highlights the IAF's 35th anniversary with an interview with the first IAF president, Bill Dyal, and features on IAF's support for Colombia's Bosconia program and the weaving cooperative Manos del Uruguay, two organizations funded during Dyal's tenure. Also included are articles on microcredit in Ecuador, development assistance in an indigenous Argentine community, an HIV/AIDS project in Venezuela, water services in Honduras and more.

The Office of External Affairs filled requests for additional copies of both the 2005 and the 2004 journal for use in university classrooms during fiscal 2005. The 2004 issue of *Grassroots Development*, particularly Patrick Breslin's article "Thinking Outside Newton's Box: Metaphors for Grassroots Development," which relates scientific theories to ways of thinking about development, generated considerable commentary in fiscal 2005. In addition to letters from the U.S. and Latin America, the IAF also received comments from readers in India and Bangladesh. Two articles from the 2004 issue were reprinted in other publications during fiscal 2005:

- Patrick Breslin and Paula Durbin's "Local Development: An Interview with David Valenzuela," was reprinted in the first 2005 issue of *@local.glob*, a Delnet publication.
- IAF program staff assistant Eduardo Rodríguez-Frías' article "Developmental Abilities," describing the inclusion of the disabled in development projects, was highlighted in January in the IDB's *Ethics and Development*, a Web bulletin on social capital, ethics and development. It was also included with other IAF materials in a CD distributed in conjunction with the World Bank's Conference on Disabilities and Inclusive Development.



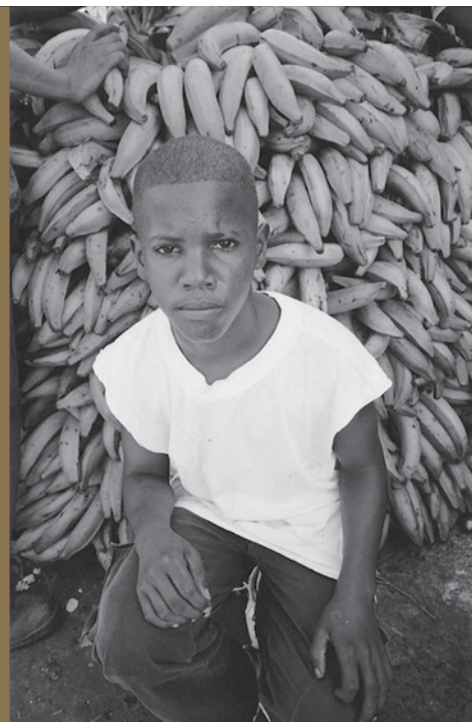
All IAF journals in English, Spanish and Portuguese published between 1977 and 1994 were scanned in 2005 and converted to pdf files for posting on the Web. The Office of External Affairs updated and reprinted the IAF's brochure on its work with communities of African descent. Finally, IAF's photo exhibit "Making Their Way" was displayed in Las Vegas at the meeting of the Latin American Studies Association in October and at the Chilean Embassy in Washington, D.C., in February and March.



## DISSEMINATION ONLINE

The IAF's Web site underwent reinforcement of security measures from January to April. During that period, a temporary site was created with basic information, including the call for proposals. In light of this situation, IAF used direct mailings to communicate with grantees and Web-based clients.

By May, the Web site was fully functional and secured. Since then it has been constantly updated with new publications, news releases and information on special events. Web reports for September showed the site had been accessed by approximately 12,000 individual computers. Most frequently accessed were the home page, lists of IAF awards by year, publications, application instructions, general information and security statements. Most visitors were from the United States, primarily the Washington, D.C., area. Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Colombia led with the number of Latin America visitors. The online newsletter *IAF Connections* has more than 3,000 subscribers.



MIGUEL SAYAGO



## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

**A**t the **Latin Americas Studies Association's International Congress** held Oct. 7–9 in Las Vegas, the IAF sponsored a panel on the knowledge, skills, ideas and technology migrants channel to their communities of origin. Speakers included Katharine Andrade Eekhoff of Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Sandra Nichols of the California Institute for Rural Studies, Robert Smith of Barnard College and IAF representative Jill Wheeler. The IAF also hosted a reception and exhibited photos from *Making their Way*, which the IAF published during fiscal 2004.

The IAF provided travel grants to researchers attending the **Woodrow Wilson Center's multi-venue seminar series on innovations in democracy** held in Buenos Aires on Dec. 17, in Cochabamba on March 10, in Guatemala City on April 8, in Bogota on May 13, and at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., Sept. 2. At the final seminar, six scholars from Latin America took a critical look at the achievements of, and problems with, participatory processes in their respective countries.



*Joseph Tulchin, left, introduced Peter Ward, of the University of Texas, at the conference on Local Governance and the Creation of Spaces for Civic Action.*

In fiscal 2003 the Inter-American Foundation commissioned **“Grassroots Development and Civic Spaces for Local Governance in Latin America,”** a study of channels to engage poor people in the decisions that affect their lives. Individual researchers, coordinated by the Fundación para la Superación de la Pobreza in Chile, analyzed “civic spaces” in five cities: Cerro Navia, Chile; Puno, Peru; Belo Horizonte, Brazil; Medellín, Colombia; and Guamote, Ecuador. They concluded that while civic engagement can result in a more inclusive political culture that, for example, allocates resources in response to needs expressed by the community, existing power structures can remain entrenched. The work was shared March 8–10 at a seminar split between the Lyndon Baines Johnson School at the University of Texas-Austin and the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C.; at the July 2–22 II Inter-American Summit on Local Governance in San Salvador; and at the annual conference of the International Society for Third-Sector Research held in Lima Aug. 10–12.



PAULA DURBIN

Joaquín Cajbón Uscap, administrator of IAF grantee Asociación Museo Comunitario Rabinal Achi in Baja Verapaz, Guatemala, was elected to the board of directors of the International Network of Community Museums at the fourth **Meeting of Community Museums**, sponsored by the Community Museum of Oaxaca June 5–11 in Nueva Guinea, Nicaragua.



*Crystal Van Der Wende, 4, of Oak Ridge, N.J., with El Ceibo's cacao pods and beans.*

PATRICK BRESLIN

PATRICK BRESLIN



*Cindy Soto of IAF, Clemente Puna Paco and Mario Choque of El Ceibo, and an unidentified visitor in El Ceibo's exhibit area at the Festival of American Folklife.*

The IAF sponsored the participation of five representatives from El Ceibo, an IAF-funded cacao farmers' cooperative in Bolivia's Alto Beni, at the food and culture exhibit of the **Smithsonian Institutions's Festival of American Folklife** in Washington, D.C., June 23–July 4. The farmers told their grassroots development story to thousands of visitors via an exhibit on the National Mall and later in the National Museum of the American Indian. They also launched the cooperative's newest product, an exquisite bar of dark organic chocolate, which sold out by the second day of the Festival. Kevin Healy, IAF representative for Bolivia, coordinated their participation. El Ceibo was the world's first farmers' cooperative to manufacture—and, since 1986, to export—cocoa products (powder, butter, chocolate) under its members' management. The cooperative's representatives joined the Mshikamano Farmers Association from Tanzania, an African Development Foundation grantee that grows and processes Sweet Unity Coffee, in a tandem restaurant debut at Georgetown's David Gregory. Other guests included members of the American Institute of Wine and Food.





Representatives from El Ceibo, a recycling cooperative in Argentina, CEDERENA, a community-based association addressing water services in Ecuador, and ACCEDDE, a Mexican NGO working to build democratic practices, traveled to Baltimore for the **Community Development Society's meeting** June 24–26. The three spoke on a panel examining how their community organizations identified problems, established priorities and partnered with other institutions to propose policy initiatives.

Ecuadorians Carolina Lara and Diógenes Hurtado Segura of IAF grantee Movimiento Mi Cometa along with Miguel Pereira and Carlos Medina of Mundo Afro in Paraguay and Uruguay, respectively, shared their experiences on their panel “Afro-Latino Youth Leaders: Ethnicity and Culture as Catalysts for Community Organizing” with some 80 individuals attending the **National Council of La Raza's conference** held July 16–19 in Philadelphia. Later, the panelists met in Washington, D.C., with representatives of the Latin American Youth Center and Senator Barack Obama's staff.



The Inter-American Development Bank and the IAF co-sponsored the third annual **Inter-American Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility** Sept. 25-27 in Santiago, Chile. IAF president Larry Palmer spoke on IAF's experience partnering with the private sector, and IAF representative Audra Jones moderated a panel of current IAF grantees who discussed the role of corporate social responsibility in grassroots development.



HEIDI SMITH

*Marco Antonio Funes, president of the Corporación de Municipalidades de El Salvador (COMURES) and Mayor of Olocuilta; Carlos Rivas Zamora, mayor of San Salvador; Carlos Mesa, former president of Bolivia; Ciro Cruz Zepeda, president of the Salvadoran legislature; President Elías Antonio Saca of El Salvador; Agustín García Calderón, chief justice of El Salvador; Vice President Eduardo Stein of Guatemala; Oscar Ortiz, Mayor of Santa Tecla; Celestino Corbacho, of the Diputación de Barcelona; Roberto Rubio, FUNDE's representative.*

## The Summit of the Americas

Throughout 2005, the IAF collaborated with the U.S. Department of State and 25 other government agencies on the U.S. presentation for the **Summit of the Americas**, held Nov. 4–5 in Mar del Plata, Argentina. As a result, President Bush's Summit agenda included the IAF's call for a combination of business ownership, local investment and civic partnerships to bring people out of poverty in targeted areas. The IAF has already committed resources toward this initiative and several foreign governments have expressed interest. Additionally, the IAF also worked with the State Department to assure the participation of IAF grantees in Summit preparations.

- Representatives of eight current and former IAF grantees received travel grants to participate in **OAS General Assembly events**.
- At the **Eleventh Annual Inter-American Conference for Mayors and Local Officials**, organized by Florida International University and Miami-Dade County and held June 21–23 in Miami, more than 400 local officials signed a declaration to be presented at the Summit of the Americas. The IAF sponsored 30 participants in the event that included training sessions on topics proposed at a planning meeting hosted by the IAF in March.
- Municipal officials, researchers and NGO representatives attending the **Second Inter-American Summit on Decentralization and Local/Regional Governance**, held July 20–22 in San Salvador, discussed their efforts to involve local and regional units of government in development projects and issued a declaration on the importance of such involvement for the Summit of the Americas. In the presence of El Salvador's entire national congress and supreme court, Salvadoran president Elías Antonio Saca recognized the IAF and the Diputación de Barcelona for their development support. Both honorees cosponsored the event organized by Salvadorian grantee Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo (FUNDE) and a committee representing IAF grantees.
- The IAF sponsored five South American legislators of African descent and 11 other participants from Latin America and the Caribbean at the **Third Conference of African Descendent Legislators** organized by Global Rights Partners for Justice and el Centro de Mujeres Afro Costarricenses Aug. 28–31 in San José. IAF president Larry Palmer joined them in drafting of a declaration for the Summit and in the **African Descendant Summit Forum** that followed. With IAF support, Partners of the Americas offered a virtual forum.

## THEMATIC OUTREACH

The IAF continues to be one of the leading development institutions working with **communities of African descendants** in the Americas. At the direction of Linda Kolko, IAF vice president for operations, the IAF published a report on the conference “Leadership and Socio-Economic Development for Communities of African Descent in Latin America and the Caribbean Workshop,” held in Honduras in February 2004. She also coordinated travel grants allowing representatives of IAF grantees to participate in events addressing issues affecting African descendants:

- A seminar on Mexicans of African descent and a reception honoring their contribution to Mexican history and culture, co-sponsored by the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the Inter-Agency Consultation on Race in Latin America (IAC) and the Woodrow Wilson Center;
- the International Seminar on Advancing Equity and Racial Inclusion, sponsored in Brasilia by the Inter-American Development Bank;
- a panel of African-descendent representatives of IAF grantees at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) annual conference in Philadelphia;
- the Global Afro-Latino and Caribbean Initiative’s conference on the status of Afro-Latino organizations held in Argentina;
- a panel on the Millennium Development Goals at the Consulta Sudamericana de Organismos Estatales y Multilaterales para Políticas de Promoción de la Equidad Racial, sponsored by IAF grantee Mundo Afro in Montevideo;
- planning events in preparation for the “Santiago +5” Latin American Regional Conference against Racism, to be held in Brazil in December 2005;
- the African-Descendent Civil Society Forum, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, Sept. 1–2 as part of the Summit of the Americas preparatory process;
- the Third Conference of African Descendent Legislators Aug. 28–31 in San José.

Marnie Schilkin, IAF representative for Ecuador, met with staff of the International Youth Foundation in Baltimore to discuss the role of **young people in development**. IAF program staff assistant Megan Moriarty was among more than 1,500 participants from 105 countries representing NGOs, government and businesses at the Youth Employment Summit (YES) Oct. 4–8. She spoke Nov. 19 at a course for youth leaders from Latin America at the Inter-American Development Bank’s training center El Instituto Interamericano para el Desarrollo (INDES). Sept. 25–28, in Denver, she attended the “Crossing the Great Divide: Creating Communities for All Ages,” the annual meeting of Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Families, a point of contact for similarly concerned funders seeking collegial and collaborative relationships.

IAF program staff assistant Eduardo Rodríguez-Frías coordinated an exhibit of photos documenting the IAF’s responsive approach to **disabled people’s organizations** at the World Bank’s Conference on Disabilities and Inclusive Development held Nov. 30–Dec. 1 in Washington, D.C. Rodríguez-Frías modeled the exhibit on the photo essay published with his feature “Development Abilities” in the 2004 issue of *Grassroots Development*. Rodríguez-Frías notes that 7 percent of the IAF’s 2005 grants explicitly target persons with disabilities, versus 5 percent in 2004.



SEAN SPRAGUE





*El Ceibo founder Emilio Villca and Kevin Healy at the Smithsonian's Festival.*

PATRICK BRESLIN

In connection with its **transnational initiative**, the IAF supported the participation of 13 women from U.S.-based Salvadoran hometown associations at the Second Conference of Salvadorans Residing Abroad, in Washington, D.C., Oct. 8–10. More than 300 Salvadoran leaders, entrepreneurs, academics and members of hometown associations from throughout the U.S. and from Canada, Australia, Sweden, Germany and other countries participated in 25 panels and discussions on topics that included migration, culture, trade, economic development, civics and youth. Eduardo Rodriguez Frias, program assistant for El Salvador, represented the IAF on a panel addressing remittances and economic development. Salvadoran president Antonio Saca was the keynote speaker.

Jill Wheeler, representative for Mexico, attended the binational conference on productive projects organized by the Federation of Zacatecan Clubs of Southern California, held Dec. 3–4 in Zacatecas, Mexico. Wheeler spoke on the role of foundations at the international seminar on problems and changes facing migration and development in the Americas, which Kaye Pyle, representative for El Salvador, also attended in Cuernavaca, Mexico, April 7–9. May 19 she participated in an event on remittances from Canada sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency in Toronto.

Sept. 2–4, Pyle attended the Second Binational Conference on Salvadoran Associations in the U.S. and Local Development in El Salvador, held in

Cojutepeque, Cuscatlán, and organized by, among others, grantee CARECEN International whose project promotes alliances between hometown associations, local governments and civil society in three municipalities. About 150 participants, including about 30 from the U.S., represented 15 hometown associations. July 2–3, Pyle participated in the Retiro Nación Garifuna in Bushkill, Pa., which included presentations on the Honduran African descendent diaspora and remittances and development.

Kevin Healy, representative for Bolivia and Colombia, spoke on **Latin American indigenous movements** at George Washington University in October and at the Foreign Service Institute on various occasions. He represented the IAF on a panel on indigenous people and sustainable agriculture at the World Bank in December, and in April on a panel at a Georgetown University conference on indigenous movements in Latin America. In a spring semester undergraduate honors course on Bolivia that he co-taught at American University, Healy drew on IAF projects and a field trip to Bolivia.

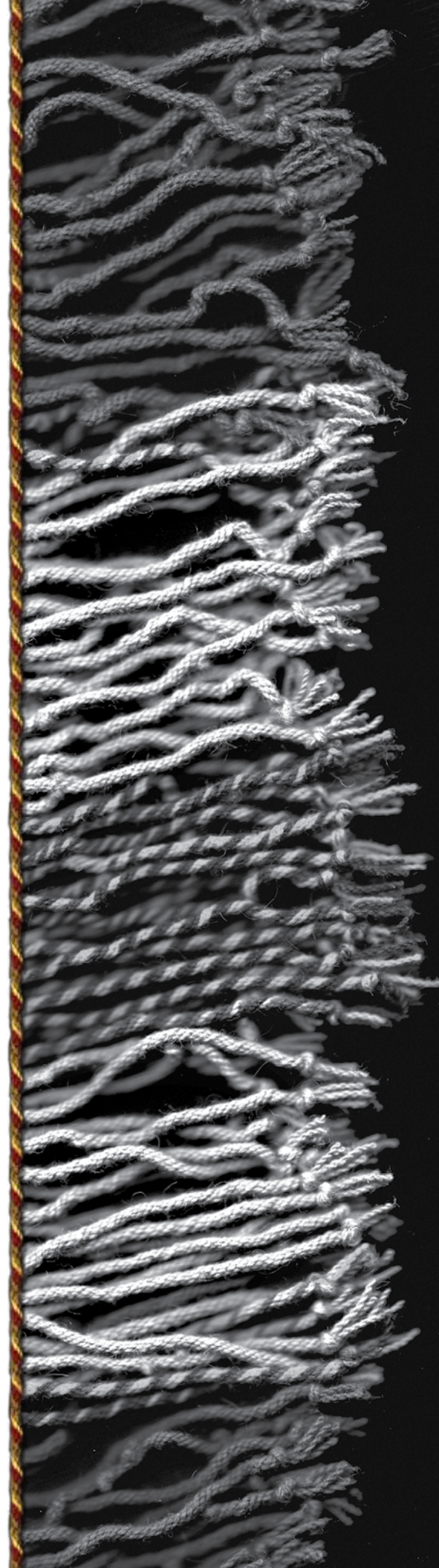
July 11–16, the IAF sent Healy and three representatives from its Bolivian grantee ASUR Foundation and its former Mexican grantee Unión de Museos Comunitarios de Oaxaca to the National Museum of the American Indian's community museum workshop in Cuzco, Peru, where they and other participants visited the new Museum of the Center for Traditional Textiles, managed by grantee Centro de Textiles Tradicionales de Cusco. Over the past year, [www.internationaldonors.org](http://www.internationaldonors.org), the Web site of Grantmakers without Borders, an international network of small foundations promoting global social change, featured recommendations on grassroots philanthropy taken from Healy's book *Llamas, Weavings, and Organic Chocolate: Multicultural Grassroots Development in the Andes and Amazon of Bolivia* (Notre Dame Press: 2001). Healy coordinated the participation of five representatives from El Ceibo, the IAF-funded cacao farmers' cooperative in Bolivia's Alto Beni, in the Smithsonian Institution's Festival of American Folklife in Washington, D.C. (See page 52.)

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# *Inter-American Foundation*

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